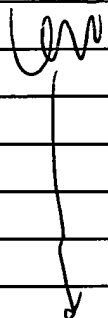





Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 117415		APPLICATION NO. New US Application	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Eric A. MERZ et al.			
				FILING DATE January 8, 2004			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
	1	4,804,285	02/14/1989	Bradford			
	2	5,129,746	07/14/1992	Epstein			
	3	5,276,970	01/11/1994	Wilcox et al.			
	4	5,456,539	10/10/1995	Wright et al.			
	5	6,123,473	09/26/2000	Guillen et al.			
	6	6,264,298 B1	07/24/2001	Mantel			
	7	6,290,351 B1	09/18/2001	Merz			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED 11/17/05			
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Date: January 8, 2004